

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 26596

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, YU, FR

SUBJECT: QUAI VIEW OF POSTPONEMENT GISCARD'S VISIT TO
YUGOSLAVIA

REF: PARIS 26576 (NOTAL)

1. QUAI DIRECTOR SOVIET AND EE AFFAIRS BEAUCHATAUD TELLS
US THAT QUAI IS "CONVINCED", IN SPITE OF WIDESPREAD
DOUBT AND SPECULATION, THAT YUGOSLAVS POSTPONED GISCARD'S
VISIT FOR REASONS GENUINELY CONCERNING TITO'S HEALTH.

2. ACCORDING TO BEAUCHATAUD, GOF WAS INFORMED ON THE
AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 9TH OF MINIC MISSION TO PARIS.
WHEN YUGOSLAVS ARRIVED THEY EXPLAINED IN MEETING WITH
FONMIN GUIRINGAUD (BEAUCHATAUD WAS NOT PRESENT AT MINIC'S
MEETING WITH GISCARD) THAT TITO HAD HAD NEW MEDICAL
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EXAMINATION (LE MONDE MENTIONS MEDICAL EXAMINATION TOOK

PLACE SEPTEMBER 8TH, WHICH BEAUCHATAUD BELIEVES IS CORRECT). ACCORDING YUGOSLAV ACCOUNT TO GOF, DOCTORS ADVISED TITO THAT UNLESS HE TOOK PERIOD OF IMMEDIATE REST THEY WOULD NOT ASSUME FURTHER RESPONSIBILITY. TITO WAS UNWILLING CALL OFF CEAUSESCU VISIT BUT THEN RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO PUT OFF GISCARD.

3. NATURE OF TITO'S ILLNESS REMAINS UNCLEAR. WHILE STRESSING THAT YUGOSLAVS OFFERED NO CLINICAL EXPLANATIONS WHILE IN PARIS, BEAUCHATAUD AGAIN LENT CERTAIN CREDENCE TO HYPOTHESIS OF CARDIO-VASCULAR PROBLEM, RATHER THAN THE LIVER TROUBLE REPORTEDLY SUGGESTED BY TANJUG. SPECIFICALLY, BEAUCHATAUD SPECULATED THAT LATTER MAY HAVE BEEN PUT OUT FOR DOMESTIC YUGOSLAV CONSUMPTION, BEING SOMEWHAT LESS ALARMING.

4. AS FOR THEORY OF YUGOSLAV IRRITATION OVER TREATMENT OF NON-ALIGNMENT IN PROPOSED GISCARD-TITO COMMUNIQUE, BEAUCHATAUD SAID IT "SHOULD BE DISCOUNTED." QUAI ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EUROPE ANDREANI HAD BEEN IN BELGRADE ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO TO NEGOTIATE THIS COMMUNIQUE. THERE WAS "VIRTUALLY COMPLETE AGREEMENT" ON JOINT TEXT. WHILE THERE WERE DIFFERENCES AS TO NON-ALIGNMENT, BEAUCHATAUD SAID FRENCH DID NOT HOLD YUGOSLAVS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANTI-FRENCH PORTIONS OF COLOMBO TEXT, TO WHICH GOY HAD MERELY ACQUIESCED. IN SHORT, NEITHER ATMOSPHERICS NOR SUBSTANTIVE RESULTS OF ANDREANI'S BELGRADE MISSION LEND WEIGHT TO HYPOTHESIS THAT GOY CANCELED FOR THIS REASON.

5. BEAUCHATAUD WAS SHADE MORE RESERVED AS TO CARLOS THEORY, I.E., THAT HIS PRESENCE SOMEHOW LEAD ONE SIDE OR OTHER TO CANCEL. HE SAID HE WAS NOT PERSONALLY PRIVY TO ALL ASPECTS CARLOS MATTER. HOWEVER, JUDGING FROM MINIC-GUIRINGAUD CONVERSATION WHICH HE ATTENDED AND FROM CORRIDOR CONTACTS WITH MINIC'S ASSISTANTS WHO CAME WITH HIM TO PARIS, BEAUCHATAUD SAYS THERE WAS "NO TRACE" OF ANY INFERENCE OF REASONS OTHER THAN REASONS OF HEALTH OFFERED AND DISCUSSED HERE BY THE YUGOSLAVS.

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6. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO DEFER JUDGMENT ON THIS CURIOUS SITUATION. FOR RECORD OUR IMPRESSION WAS THAT BEAUCHATAUD SEEMED ABSOLUTELY SINCERE IN WHAT HE TOLD US. POSSIBILITY STILL CANNOT BE FULLY EXCLUDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE IS NOT FULLY PRIVY. WE HAVE ELYSEE APPOINTMENT LATER TODAY ON OTHER MATTER AT WHICH WE HOPE TO GO OVER GROUND AGAIN.
RUSH

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